

Boucher Announces Federal Funding for Major Infrastructure Project in Giles County (Oct. 31, 2006)

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN RICK BOUCHER

Town of Rich Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Funding Announcement

October 31, 2006

Rich Creek, Virginia

I am pleased to visit the Town of Rich Creek today for the purpose of announcing a provision of federal funding in the amount of \$2,225,000 for a wastewater system improvement project which will improve wastewater service to 460 households and more than 40 businesses in the Town of Rich Creek and the surrounding areas.

Effective today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture through its Rural Development Agency, at my urging, is providing a low-interest federal loan in the amount of \$1,128,000 and a federal grant in the amount of \$1,097,000 to the Town of Rich Creek to upgrade the Town's current wastewater system.

Reliable and safe water and wastewater systems are essential to maintaining Southwest Virginia's excellent quality of life and critical to meeting our economic development goals for the region. For these reasons, I work actively with local governments to secure the funding necessary to construct and improve the region's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Earlier this year, I gathered with Giles County officials to announce a provision of federal funding totaling \$1.1 million for the construction of an extension of the public water system along Route 100 in the County. When completed, that extension will bring publically provided water service to more than 100 homes.

Today's announcement represents another significant stride in our ongoing work to improve the water and wastewater infrastructure in Giles County.

The current wastewater treatment plant serving the Town of Rich Creek is reaching its maximum capacity due to infiltration and inflows of storm water into the sewer collection system, and the Town has a limited ability to provide wastewater services to new residents and businesses.

With the funding I am announcing today, the Town will make upgrades to the sewer collection system which will eliminate the inflow of excess storm water to the system. The Town is currently working to design the project, which will include the replacement of one pump station near Route 219. Based on the results of the engineering and design work, which is now being completed, the Town's existing wastewater treatment plant will either be repaired and upgraded or closed and the

wastewater pumped to a neighboring treatment plant outside of the Town.

When completed, the project will provide improved wastewater services to the 460 residents and more than 40 businesses that rely on the Town's wastewater system. The improved wastewater service will enable the Town to accommodate growth in the number of residents and businesses and will assist the Town's long range economic development efforts.

The \$2,250,000 I am announcing today will provide the entire cost of the wastewater improvement project.

I would like to take the opportunity of these remarks to recognize a number of individuals who deserve our thanks today for the efforts they have made on behalf of this project.

First, I want to thank Travis Jackson, Area Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Agency, for his dedicated work to secure the funds for this project.

I would like to commend Rich Creek's Mayor, Darlene French, for her leadership and foresight in the development of the wastewater improvement project. I would also like to thank the other Members of the Rich Creek Town Council for their dedicated efforts on behalf of residents of the Town.

I also want to recognize Roger Jones, Utilities Director for the Town of Rich Creek, for his work on behalf of this project.

Finally, I want to thank my Project Manager, Courtney Lamie, for her persistent and persuasive efforts in support of this project.

Today's announcement represents another success in our efforts to improve Southwest Virginia's water and wastewater infrastructure. Rich Creek residents will broadly benefit from the increased residential and economic potential afforded by this project, and I want to commend everyone here on this significant achievement.